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Rural Information Center

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UPDATE

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National Agricultural Library

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Beltsville, Maryland 20705

INFORMATION AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE, CLARION, PENNSYLVANIA, MAY 4-6, 1988

The Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship, Clarion University of Pennsylvania and the Rural Information Center, National Agricultural Library are co-sponsoring the forthcoming Information and Rural Economic Development Conference. The purpose of the conference is to explore what constitutes the information infrastructure of rural America. This important knowledge will assist in continued efforts to revitalize rural America.

Joseph Howard, Director of NAL, will speak on the role of the library. Robyn Frank, NAL Information Centers Branch Head, and Patricia John, RIC Coordinator, will speak about RIC activities and rural information needs.

RIC'S FIRST GRADUATE INTERN

Helen Louise Yoas joined the RIC staff in February for a three month internship. She is expecting to receive her Master of Library Science degree from Clarion University in May 1988. Mrs. Yoas worked in a small public library and as the film program coordinator for the Clarion District Library Association. She plans to continue her career with a position in a rural public library.

FEBRUARY REQUEST TREND: FUNDING

One-third of all requests requiring online searches dealt with funding sources. Some examples include:

*Congressman Newt Gingrich's office requested funding sources for a constituent in Georgia who was planning to establish a nonprofit farm advisory service to assist southern agricultural communities.

*The Hampton Community Development Association, Hampton, Iowa, requested that RIC identify the top 100 federal funding programs available to local rural governments.

*A Missouri businessman requested funding sources available for building a small business incubator database to link companies with extensive distribution systems to small businesses developing products requiring distribution.

*A Maryland State Extension Specialist requested funding sources to develop an extension workshop on growing older.

FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

Louise Reynnells of the RIC staff identified and compiled a list of the top 100 federal funding programs available to local rural governments. This document is available on request.



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RIC VISITORS

Ted Peterson, National Wood Products Extension Program, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, discussed RIC services and cooperation between RIC and the Forest Products Laboratory.

Daryl Holbrook, Director of Grants and Government Relations, Hampton Community Development Association, Iowa, requested funding sources for rural areas.

Don Reynolds, a member of the Rural Library Services Committee, American Library Association, discussed closer cooperation efforts between RIC and rural librarians.

ELECTRONIC MAIL ACCESS TO RIC

RIC's E-Mail number, AGS3705 (Dialcom), is available for RIC users.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF RIC QUESTIONS

BREAKDOWN OF RURAL REVITALIZATION QUESTIONS		
	FY88 Average	February 1988
Economic Viability	60%	74%
Local Government Services	25%	19%
Natural Resources/ Quality of Life	12%	7%
Leadership/ Community Change	3%	0

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF RIC USERS

AFFILIATION BREAKDOWN		
	FY88 Total	February 1988
State and County Extension	40%	35%
State Officials	11%	0
USDA Officials	11%	7%
Federal (non-USDA)	3%	11%
University	11%	9%
Community/ Rural/Econ. Organizations	7%	5%
Congress	1%	9%
All Other	16%	24%

STATES SUBMITTING HIGHEST NUMBER OF REQUESTS		
	FY88 Total	February 1988
District	20%	28%
Georgia	14%	0
New York	6%	0
Virginia	--	11%
Missouri	--	9%
All Others	60%	52%
Total No. of States	26	24